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SUBJ: POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTATION EXHIBITION,
SINGAPORE SEPTEMBER 9-12, 1975

REF: STATE 145782

1. SUMMARY:

WATER POLLUTION - THAILAND IS FACING A MAJOR POLLUTION PROBLEM. WHILE THE POLLUTION IS MOST CRITICAL IN BANGKOK, A 238 SQUARE KILOMETER AREA WITH OVER 4,000 MEDIUM AND LARGE SIZE FACTORIES AND FOUR MILLION PEOPLE, IT IS BY NO MEANS LIMITED TO THE CAPITAL. ALL RIVERS AND CANALS IN THE COUNTRY ARE CONVENIENT VEHICLES OF HOUSEHOLD AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL. THE CHAO PHRAYA WATER-SHED DRAINING 60 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRY EMPTIES ITS COLLECTION OF WASTE INTO THE GULF OF THAILAND. AS A RESULT, THE RESORT, LITTORAL SHRIMP AND FISH FARMING AND OFFSHORE FISHING INDUSTRIES HAVE SUFFERED. IN 1973, THERE WAS A SPATE OF PUBLIC PRES-SURE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE POLLUTION PROBLEM, BUT DURING THE RULE OF THE INTERIM SANYA GOVERNMENT FROM OCTOBER 1973 UNTIL EARLY 1975, THERE WAS LITTLE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY. RECENTLY, THERE IS A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM, BUT THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND INDUSTRY ARE LABORING UNDER THE BURDEN OF AN INADEQUATE POLLUTION CONTROL LAW, LACK OF TRAINED

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PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC APATHY.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL - OF THE APPROXIMATELY 10,000 CUBIC METERS OF GARBAGE GENERATED WITHIN BANGKOK EACH DAY, ONLY 60 PER CENT IS PROPERLY COLLECTED AND TREATED. THERE IS A SINGLE COMPOST PLANT IN OPERATION ALTHOUGH FOUR PLANTS ERECTED THREE YEARS AGO BY THE BRITISH FIRM -- JOHNSON THOMPSON -- WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE CITY DUE TO TECHNICAL SHORT-COMINGS. CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELECTRIC POWER PLANT USING GARBAGE AS FUEL IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL - AT THE PRESENT, BANGKOK DOES NOT HAVE A COORDINATED SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT SYSTEM. MANY BUILDINGS RELY ON SEPTIC TANK FACILITIES OFTEN INADEQUATE DUE TO AGE, CONDITION, CAPACITY OR POOR DRAINAGE.

IN 1969, THE AMERICAN CONSULTING FIRM OF CAMP, DRESSER AND MCKEE RECOMMENDED A PROGRAM OF PUBLIC WORKS COSTING OVER U.S. \$500 MILLION. ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF THE WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

AIR POLLUTION - AIR POLLUTION IS A PROBLEM ONLY IN THE TRAFFIC CHOKED CITY OF BANGKOK WHERE 85-90 PER CENT OF THE POLLUTION CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES. ALTHOUGH BECKMAN POLLUTION DETECTION EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TO MEASURE THE PROBLEM, VIRTUALLY NO MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION.

2. PRODUCTION:

ALTHOUGH IT IS FELT LOCAL ENGINEERING FIRMS ARE CAPABLE OF REPRODUCING AND CONSTRUCTING POLLUTION CONTROL AND DETECTION EQUIPMENT, ALMOST ALL EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN USE IS IMPORTED.

3. IMPORTS:

IN 1973, SLIGHTLY OVER U.S. \$2 MILLION WORTH OF POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT WAS IMPORTED BY THAILAND. THE BULK OF THIS WAS FLUID AND GAS PURIFICATION EQUIPMENT. IN 1974, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS MORE THAN DOUBLED. JAPAN, U.S. A., WEST GERMANY, UNITED KINGDOM, ITALY AND TAIWAN WERE THE LARGEST SUPPLIERS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY TEN MAJOR IMPORTERS/DISTRIBUTORS OF POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT.

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IMPORT DUTY AND BUSINESS TAXES RANGE FROM 13-25 PERCENT, BUT THERE ARE NO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OR SPECIAL PERMITS REQUIRED.

4. CONCLUSION:

OF THE OVER 40,000 FACTORIES IN THAILAND, A MAJORITY OF THEM ARE NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION. WHILE THE NEEDS OF SOME PLANTS ARE GREATER THAN OTHERS, SERIOUS ENFOR-

CEMENT BY THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND SERIOUS EFFORTS IN THE AREA
OF PUBLIC WORKS COULD BE EXPECTED TO GENERATE A LARGE MARKET
FOR POLLUTION CONTROL AND DETECTION EQUIPMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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